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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94143

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Dr. David W. Kingsbury
Sir William Dunn School of
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Dear David:

Thanks for your newsletter. As you probably know, we have updated the summary of Retroviridae for Intervirology (a minor task), and we are anticipating some difficulty with finding a suitable name for the AIDS virus. I am waiting for the dust to settle from the nucleotide sequencing (done or almost done in four labs at least) before convening a subcommittee. But it is clear that the AIDS virus is no more related to HTLV-I than to any other retrovirus on the basis of sequence comparison. Would you like to tell Bob Gallo it shouldn't be called HTLV-III?

Best regards,

Harold E. Varmus, M.D.
American Cancer Society
Professor of Molecular Virology

HEV/jm